

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-19, 37-48, and 57 are pending. This amendment is in response to the August 9, 2006 non-final first Office Action in this RCE case. Independent claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 14, 16, 37, and 41 have been amended. Further examination and reconsideration of the application are requested.

In the Office Action mailed August 9, 2006, claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alur (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,044) in view of Want (U.S. Patent No. 6,008,727). Claims 1-6, 8-11, 14, 16-19, 37-48, and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alur '044 in view of Want '727 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0057440 to Weiner et al. It is submitted that all of the pending claims, as amended, are not rendered obvious in view of the cited references.

The present invention relates to a certificate issuing method and apparatus for issuing printed certificates such as residence cards and the like. The certificates are printed at a local machine on paper forms that include an attached or embedded microchip (see page 2, lines 21-25 of the specification). The printed certificates comprise authorized documents and therefore the certificates are capable of authentication. The microchip has a unique microchip ID associated with the printed form (page 5, lines 14-17). In one embodiment, the microchip ID can be read from the form (page 11, lines 20-22), personal information from a certificate applicant can be received (page 11, lines 22-27), and the certificate printer can send the microchip ID and applicant data to the certificate issuer for verification (page 12, lines 1-5). The issuer can store the applicant information and microchip ID into an issuer database (page 12, lines 12-15), and then the certificate data can be sent from the issuer to the local (home) printer for printing the certificate (page 14, lines 2-3).

All of the independent claims recite a certificate issuing system having a printer reading a microchip ID from a print form via a microchip reading means of the printer, wherein the print form has contained within it a microchip having a unique microchip ID associated with the print form, such that the printer can print out the certificate after the issuer stores user data

and the microchip ID, after verification of the data. None of the cited references, neither Alur, Want, nor Weiner, taken singly or in combination, teaches or suggests these features.

Alur relates to a system that authenticates a license number, such as a fishing license (column 1, lines 44-46). Alur receives license parameters and generates a license number (col. 2, lines 8-10) or authenticates a license number (col. 2, lines 19-22). Alur has nothing to do with the claimed certificate issuing system with a unique microchip ID printer reading a microchip ID from a print form via a microchip reading means of the printer, wherein the print form has contained within it a microchip having a unique microchip ID associated with the print form, such that the printer can print out the certificate after the issuer stores user data and the microchip ID, after verification of the data.

Want relates to electronic tags that perform radio frequency broadcasting of a tag identification number. Want has nothing to do with has nothing to do with the claimed certificate issuing system with a unique microchip ID printer reading a microchip ID from a print form via a microchip reading means of the printer, wherein the print form has contained within it a microchip having a unique microchip ID associated with the print form, such that the printer can print out the certificate after the issuer stores user data and the microchip ID, after verification of the data.

Weiner relates to documents with an embedded memory device that contains information relating to the information printed on the documents themselves (see Paragraph 0010 of the Weiner publication). In this way, Weiner explains that it is unnecessary to have digital and hard copies of documents stored in separate locations (see Paragraph 0019 of Weiner). There is no certification or authorization purpose described in Weiner for the memory device. As with the other cited references, Weiner has nothing to do with the claimed certificate issuing system with a unique microchip ID printer reading a microchip ID from a print form via a microchip reading means of the printer, wherein the print form has contained within it a microchip having a unique microchip ID associated with the print form, such that the printer can print out the certificate after the issuer stores user data and the microchip ID, after verification of the data.

Moreover, the issuer verification takes place through a printer communication interface or circuit with the certificate issuer or data manager. This feature is recited in the independent claims. None of the cited references describes a certification system with a printer having a communications circuit/interface that permits the printer to perform verification by communication between the printer and the certificate issuer/manager.

Independent claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 14, 16, 17, 37, 41, and 45 all contain limitations as described above that are not provided by the cited references, in that the claims recite a certificate issuing system with a unique microchip ID printer reading a microchip ID from a print form via a microchip reading means of the printer, wherein the print form has contained within it a microchip having a unique microchip ID associated with the print form, such that the printer can print out the certificate after the issuer stores user data and the microchip ID, after verification of the data.


Thus, it is respectfully asserted that claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-19, 37-48, and 57 are patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-350-6100.

Respectfully submitted,


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